

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 /058 W

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O P 061004Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8886

INFBWRUEHDT/USMISSION USUN PRIORITY 227

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 3418

CINCPAC FOR POLAD: PASS AMBASSADOR OSBORN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BM, UN

SUBJECT: STUDENTS AND MONKS PLAN INTERMENT OF U THANT'S BODY

REF: RANGOON 3405 AND 3407

1. BY MID-AFTERNOON DECEMBER 6 GUB HAD TAKEN NO ACTION AGAINST STUDENTS, MONKS AND OTHERS HOLDING U THANT'S BODY IN UNIVERSITY GROUNDS, AND GUB INTENTIONS NOT YET KNOWN. GUB LATE DECEMBER 5 ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATE CLOSING OF ALL UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, AND SCHOOLS IN BURMA, GIVING IT A BASIS TO CLEAR UNIVERSITY GROUNDS WHENEVER NON-ACTIVIST STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO HAVE LEFT FOR HOMES. THIS COULD BE AS EARLY AS EVENING DECEMBER 6 OR AS LATE AS DECEMBER 8. NO SECURITY FORCES ARE IN EVIDENCE AROUND UNIVERSITY AREA, WHICH REMAINS MODERATELY CONGESTED WITH STUDENTS AND ON-LOOKERS.

2. STUDENTS, MONKS, AND OTHERS ARE CLEARING UNDERBRUSH FROM SITE OF RANGOON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNION BUILDING, WHICH WAS DESTROYED BY GUB IN JULY 1962 WHEN STUDENT DEMONSTRATION WAS CRUSHED WITH OVER 50 KILLED. PLAN IS TO INTER U THANT'S REMAINS THERE AND CON-  
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STRUCT A "TEMPORARY" MONUMENT. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT STUDENTS

HAVE ANNOUNCED INTERMENT WILL BEGIN AT MID-AFTERNOON UNLESS GUB DESIGNATES SOME OTHER SUITABLE SITE BY THAT TIME.

3. GUB PERMITTED FIRST REPORTS OF U THANT INCIDENT TO FOREIGN PRESS MEDIA OUT ON MORNING OF DECEMBER 6; REPORTS WERE EDITED AND CENSORED SO AS TO MINIMIZE SIZE AND IMPORTANCE OF DEMONSTRATION. LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO REPORTED DEVELOPMENTS OF DECEMBER 5 FOLLOWING SIMILAR LINE.

4. A SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THIS OUTBREAK IS ITS STRONGLY POLITICAL FLAVOR. IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND MAY-JUNE LABOR DISTURBANCE, WHEN ECONOMIC OR OTHER ISSUES WERE IN FOREFRONT AND THERE WERE FEW IF ANY OVERTLY ANTI-GOVERNMENT SLOGANS, STUDENTS NOW ARE EXPLICITLY DENOUNCING GUB. SPEECHES AT CONVOCATION HALL AFTER U THANT'S BODY WAS BROUGHT THERE CRITICIZED GUB AND NE WIN PERSONALLY, AND SLOGANS IN USE INCLUDE "MAINTAIN THE SOLICARITY OF WORKERS, PEASANTS, STUDENTS AND MONKS" AND "THE REVOLUTION MUST SUCCEED." AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF STRIKES OR OTHER WORKER SUPPORT TO STUDENTS.

5. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT PRESTIGE HAS ALREADY SUFFERED FROM WHAT MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO SEE AS CLUMSY HANDLING OF WHOLE ISSUE AND FROM FAILURE TO FORESTALL ACTIVISTS' SEIZURE OF BODY DECEMBER 5. ALLOWING STUDENTS TO INTER REMAINS, EVEN TEMPORARILY, MIGHT DEFUSE ISSUE AND AVOID BLOODSHED, BUT WOULD BE A FURTHER LOSS OF FACE FOR GUB, AND MONUMENT WOULD BE A SYMBOL AND RALLYING POINT (REPLACING THE OLD RUSU BUILDING) FOR FURTHER OPPOSITION.  
LACEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PINT, BM, UN, (U THANT)  
**To:** STATE CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
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